

Greetings from the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association!

Here is a summary of the 7th Yukon River Salmon In-Season Management Teleconference held Tuesday, July 24, 2018. Call lasted 1 hour, 15 minutes.

Background: Yukon River salmon management teleconferences are held annually on every Tuesday in June, July, and August for managers and fishers throughout the Yukon River drainage to discuss fishing conditions and management strategies in real time as the salmon run is occurring. Funded by the US Department of the Interior, Office of Subsistence Management.

Media participating: KZPA radio-Fort Yukon

Communities participating this week:

Alaska Communities: Alakanuk, Mountain Village, Pilot Station, Anvik Grayling Nulato, Huslia, Allakaket, Alatna, Rapids, Fort Yukon, Eagle

Yukon Territory Canada Communities: Old Crow, Dawson, Teslin, Whitehorse

Subsistence Reports:

Alakanuk: Berry picking season. Fishing has slowed down, even commercial. Mainly catching humpies, whitefish, lush. Water down from last week. Everyone complete on subsistence. Mostly happy.

Mt. Village: No one subsistence fishing after numbers dropped. Everyone satisfied with Kings they got this year. One concern has been too many commercial openings that interfere with subsistence harvest. Water level has dropped considerably.

Pilot Station: No chance to fish. Let ADFG know we do appreciate the daily test fish they have been sharing in our community. Some lack gear to fish.

Marshall: No one fishing besides commercial. Most folks subsistence salmon berry picking. Warm and breezy. 10 Kings retained from commercial harvest.

Anvik: 6 households contacted, only 1 fished. No one else fishing, waiting for the fall chum. All 6 said they met their subsistence needs. 2 said they did not. 2 said same as last year. 4 said opportunity was better. ADFG provided good opportunity to get fish this year.

Grayling: Everyone has stopped subsistence fishing and waiting for fall chum.

Nulato: No fishing the last few openings. 1 family got about 30 whitefish. My family all done with subsistence fishing and satisfied. Most other folks pretty satisfied. Folks understand weaker run of Kings and need to conserve. Hot. Waiting for fall chum.

Huslia: Orville- A young adult passed, then an elder passed. So the village is very busy which is the reason perhaps no report from there. Koyukuk took fish up to share. Waiting for fall chum. Drone work is happening on the Salcha & Chena.

Allakaket: Water dropping finally, hot, dry. Getting some chum. Last week, 1 or 2 a day. Some coming back from camp, waiting for fall chum.

Alatna: Water finally dropping, and summer came. One family down 16 miles and caught 22 Kings. Good to hear.

Rapids: Stan Zuray

- Water is low and drift free

- Last King opening was one of the poorest all season. All fishermen here reported small catches

- Quality is still acceptable but the normal red colored skin and few white fleshed kings are being seen. -

Some fishers have broke camp and some say this opening tonight will be their last. Soon 50% will be white fleshed and that will be the end.

- Chum are fairly numerous and stopping some non dog musher camps from fishing.
- A small amount of nice fall type chum salmon are showing up with the summer chum.

Rapids Data Collection Project (funded by Tanana Chiefs Conference) has processed 387 king samples so far

- Average weight is 12.3 lbs.
- Female rate is 19%
- % over 30 lbs. is .8%
- % over 25 lbs. is 3.6%
- Largest king is 33.6 lbs.
- Visible Ichthyophonous Disease is 1.5%

Gale Vick-visited Stan's camp and he is doing a great job tracking ASL

Fort Yukon: 14 households contacted, interviewed 10, 3 fished, rest done. Fishwheels reporting good harvest. Water dropping, no debris.

Eagle: all fishers harvest up. Fishwheels not fishing, too difficult. 1 person worried about the king study. All seem pleased with catch and condition. Weather good. Phone troubles in Eagle.

Sonya-family done with king fishing. Harvested 35 mostly smaller males. Met our needs. We are feeding 10 people with jarred salmon. Very thankful and will not fish the next opening. Hope to make up the remainder with fall chum. Hopefully not too much fall chum commercial harvest. The salmon sex id project has caused a lot of upheaval here. Meeting coming tonight. Worried about making CA escapement. CA's have refused to kill the fish. and the sonar site crew is divided. Have spent 10 years, taking genetic samples and believe that would be enough? Can someone explain why it is not. I would like to see ADFG come to us. It's about our lifestyle. Culture of dependency will not end until the government stops giving away fish. Says fish setting in river water and ruining.

Joanne: Still working on the project and Eagle village had several meetings. The council did not put a fish wheel or community net in this year. The process has been going well, pickup at ramp but we are now delivering at our cost. Trying to be really fair. No one has called the village, we are sharing with everyone and are concerned about the future and so support the project so we will know more about the Kings. In the past we conserved by not fishing kings at all. Stay positive. Hope this unique project helps the future generations. ADFG in village for lunch and meeting at the city this evening.

Canada-

Old Crow: Darius-275 kings for entire community, 30 in communal freezer, good condition. High water most of the season, water cooler than normal. Porcupine River, 1376 salmon at counter. Using 6" nets. Game Guardian on river everyday.

Dawson: Al - heatwave temps, record high water temps over last 10 years. Reporting to YRP

Teslin: James, nothing to report. Maybe escapement will be met.

Whitehorse: Following YSSC conservation. Small amount of harvest, 100 fish. Just getting geared up for the Fox Creek project.

Questions and discussion:

Q: Orville-Salcha sonar, did drone-a lot of reds. On Nenana, on both sides of the river and one area that had no documentation on Kings in an area not known.

Q: Gale- asking folks, are you seeing Kings where you have not seen them before?

Q: Whitehorse- how many fish will be harvested for the Eagle study? Sean-250 fish, 90 distributed up to yesterday.

Sonya-2 weeks ago I called in with questions. The 250 is 32% of Eagles annual harvest. ADFG claims its a supplement, but it replaces. Why is this genetic testing needed? Why is fish not procured from fishers? Sean-New approach to check accuracy of sex id. Carl Fister-you have to understand the accuracy of your monitoring. Sonya-Randy Brown says you could hope for 92% and genetics is better. It hurts me that CA folks are not fishing.

Joel-Eagle project is an ADFG & USFWS. The CA genetics work may use some of the samples from this work. Project not created for DFO needs. Sonya says sign says CA is a partner. Joel- we are not a proponent.

Martin in Pilot-hard number passage chinook? Sean: Pilot-161k, Eagle-24k yesterday.

?-Of 161K, 73K is CA-what is total estimate of escapement?-Sean-we will not know that till postseason. Still looks like a lot of kings in this 3rd pulse. ?-Do you think you are going to meet the goal? Sean-at this point we do.

Harvey-did you run genetics on the 3rd pulse? Sean-no, picked up from last portion of the 2nd pulse.

Further Information:

For further information, please contact the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association at 907-272-3131 or look for us on the web at: www.yukonsalmon.org. or check out our Facebook by clicking the link there.

For Alaskan management information, please visit:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fishingCommercialByArea.interior>

or call toll-free 1-866-479-7387 for recorded fishing schedules and assessment information

Here is a list of links for more information from the Alaska Department of Fish & Game:

For news releases and daily counts, like our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/YukonRiverFishingADFG/>

For Yukon salmon counts and escapement data:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareayukon.salmon#fishcounts>

For Yukon Area maps:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareayukon.salmon#maps>

To search for an ADF&G report: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/publications/>

To obtain a Yukon Area fishing permit online visit the ADF&G store: <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/Store/>

To report your Yukon Area subsistence or personal use harvest, or to return your permit for the season:
<https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/PU/index.cfm?ADFG=main.home>

For Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada updates, please visit:
<http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/yukon/fmcountingfac.htm>

Please join us on the next teleconference, Tuesday at 1 p.m. Alaska time (2 p.m. Yukon time). As a reminder, the toll free number is 1-800-315-6338 and the code is YUKON# (98566#).